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(CLASSIFICATION)

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S/S # 3124732

DATE OCT 29 1981

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
TRANSMITTAL FORM

FOR: Mr. Richard V. Allen
National Security Council
The White House

REFERENCE:

TO: President Reagan FROM: Mr. R. G. Harms

DATE: SUBJECT: Comments on Israeli attack on Iraq.

WHITE HOUSE REFERRAL DATED: August 17, 1981 NSC # 036414

____ THE ATTACHED ITEM WAS SENT DIRECTLY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION TAKEN:

____ A draft reply is attache?

____ A draft reply will be forwarded

____ A translation is attached

XX An information copy of a direct reply is attached

____ We believe no response is necessary for the reason cited below

____ Other

REMARKS:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MP
REVIEWED BY WB DATE 1-14-94
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☒ RELEASABLE☒
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PA/PC/CM:GDavis:dj
X21393 10-21-81
PA: J. O'Neil

L. Paul Bremer, III
Executive Secretary

Unclassified
(CLASSIFICATION)

United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Harms:

I am replying to your message to President Reagan concerning the Israeli attack on Iraq's nuclear reactor. I hope the following review of U.S. actions and policies is helpful in understanding our position. We appreciate having your well thought-out views. I sincerely regret that this response has been so long delayed.

As you know, on June 7, Israeli Air Force units attacked the nuclear reactor under construction in Tuwaitha, Iraq. On June 8, we condemned the Israeli air strike, noting that the unprecedented character of this action would seriously add to the already tense situation in the area and complicate our efforts to peacefully resolve problems there. The United States was not consulted in any way about any phase of the operation and was not informed of it in advance.

On June 10, the President suspended the scheduled delivery of four F-16 aircraft to Israel pending further study of the Israeli action and consultations with Congress. That same day, pursuant to Section 3 of the Arms Export Control Act, Secretary Haig sent letters to the Chairmen of the Senate Foreign Relations and House Foreign Affairs Committees indicating that a substantial violation of the 1952 U.S.-Israel Mutual Defense Assistance Agreement may have occurred. After the required report to Congress, the Act leaves any further determination or action to the President's discretion. Congress may also take further action.

On June 19, the United States voted for U.N. Security Council Resolution 487 condemning the Israeli attack, making clear our profound concern about the raid's impact on the peace and security of all the nations of the Middle East.

The July escalation of the cycle of violence on both sides of the Israel-Lebanon border, which included Israeli

Mr. R. G. Harms,
Post Office Box 285,
Issaquah, Washington.

air attacks on Beirut and Palestinian rocket attacks on northern Israeli towns, was of great concern to us. Because of this general atmosphere of increased violence and tension in the region, the President continued the suspension of scheduled military aircraft deliveries to Israel, eventually including ten additional F-16's and two F-15's. We voted for U.N. Security Council Resolution 490, which called for an immediate end to all armed attacks, and we worked hard to end the cross-border violence.

The Administration conducted an intensive review of these events, including candid discussions with Israeli Prime Minister Begin and consultations with Congress. We are satisfied that the Government of Israel clearly understands the provisions of U.S. law that govern the use of U.S.-supplied military equipment. The review took into account events and trends in the Middle East, particularly the events in Lebanon leading to a cease-fire on July 24. This cease-fire is a positive element in the region, one which we hope will continue and lead to other steps toward peace. In view of the changed atmosphere in the region, and after the review's completion, President Reagan lifted the suspension of military aircraft deliveries to Israel.

In the case of the air attack on the Iraqi nuclear facility, we have carefully noted the Israeli and Iraqi positions. Israel contends that its action against Iraq was a necessary, legitimate act of self-defense because the Iraqi reactor was intended to produce weapons grade material to make atomic bombs. Israel also points out that there is a state of war between the two countries and contends that Iraq had made clear its intention to produce such a weapon for use against Israel.

Iraq, on the other hand, denies that its nuclear program has any application other than the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Iraq points out that it has ratified the Non-Proliferation Treaty and that its reactor and supply of enriched uranium were subject to International Atomic Energy Agency safeguard controls.

The United States does not believe that force can provide the answer to international disputes. Our condemnation of Israel's action was intended to clearly express this view. At the same time, as Ambassador Kirkpatrick made clear before the U.N. Security Council, we remain fully committed to the security and well-being of Israel and to the

friendship between our two countries. The United States will continue to do all in its power to achieve a just and lasting peace for all the peoples of the Middle East.

Sincerely,

/s/

Dean E. Fischer
Assistant Secretary
for Public Affairs and
Department Spokesman

8124732

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

AUGUST 17, 1981

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:
DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 036414

MEDIA: LETTER

TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN

FROM: MR. R. G. HARMS
POST OFFICE BOX 285
ISSAGUAH WA 98027

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON ISRAELI ATTACK ON IRAQ

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN BASIC CORRESPONDENCE, CONTROL SHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE (OR DRAFT) TO:
AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 33, THE WHITE HOUSE

BY DIRECTION OF THE PRESIDENT:
LESLIE SORG
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

95 49

No response to date

R.G Harris
P.O. Box 345
Issaquah Wa. 98027

8124732

President Regan
(administration)

036414

AH

This is the second letter I have written to the present administration I have not received an answer to my first letter. I have written four letters to Carter and received answers to three. This is somewhat ironic since I did not vote for Carter and I not only voted for Regan but contributed $50 to his campaign fund.

My immediate concern is the admins reaction to the Israeli attack on Iraq We should have condemned the attack as as an overt violation of both U.S. and international law, and prohibited further sale of arms to Israel until the Begin government is removed from power.

I believe the attack was a concious effort by the Begin government to isolate the U.S. from the Arab countries. The Machevellian policy of the Begin government

is demonstrated by:

1. Israel and the U.S. Zionists have opposed the sale of AWACS to Saudi Arabia. AWACS if they had been deployed in Northern Saudi Arabia could have detected the attack. Attacks such as the surprise attack on Syria, Jordan, and Egypt in 67 would no longer be possible.
2. Israel has consistently refused to sign the proliferation treaty while Iraq has signed it. Also it is generally believed that Israel has nuclear weapons.
3. Begin met with Sadat two days before the attack. This puts Sadat in an extremely difficult position.
4. The attack puts the U.S. in a very difficult position since F15s and F16s were used in the attack.

The attack has far ranging implications. Some of the adverse consequences are.

1. The attack forces both Egypt and Saudi Arabia to back away from the U.S. Saudi Arabia is of vital importance

to the U.S. while Israel is a liability

2 The attack strengthens the Soviet position in the Middle East

3. If the U.S. accepts the attack as defensive it provides a very dangerous precedent. The Soviets could rationalize a preemptive nuclear strike against our M2 forces as defensive.

4. The attack will accelerate proliferation all over the world.

5 It will solidify the Arabs against Israel thus increasing the probability of war.

It should be apparent that the tendency to aggressive action by the Begin government poses great risks to the U.S. To avoid these risks the U.S. must quietly disassociate itself from Israel until a more moderate government is in power in Israel.

Finally I would like to say that I have great respect and admiration for the Israeli people, however I believe every loyal U.S. citizen must place the

the interest of the U.S ahead of any foreign country

Sincerely

JPJ Hamm